

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Criminalistics Laboratory

History

The Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Criminalistics Laboratory was created by statute in July 1969 (Iowa Code chapter [691](#)). In 1977, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation was reorganized as the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). In September 2000, the laboratory was accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB), and currently maintains accreditation in accordance with ASCLD/LAB International program criteria.

The current location of the Iowa Crime Lab opened June 9, 2005, at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny campus. In addition to the Crime Lab, there was also office space for the State Medical Examiner, the University of Iowa's Hygienic Laboratory, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture's meat and dairy testing. The overall facility covers 176,000 square feet and houses all four labs. Total funding for the planning and construction was \$50.0 million, plus an additional \$355,500 to purchase new lab equipment and maintenance and operations. The state appropriations for the Lab were made in [HF 742](#) during the 2001 Legislative Session and [SF 2298](#) during the 2004 Legislative Session:

- FY 2002: \$16.67 million from the Restricted Capital Fund (RCF)
- FY 2003: \$16.67 million from the RCF
- FY 2004: \$16.67 million from the RCF

Current

The DCI Crime Lab provides services in the following areas: trace evidence, arson, impression evidence, questioned documents, breath alcohol, toxicology, drug identification, firearms and toolmarks, DNA, forensic photography, and crime scene processing.

The DCI receives two General Fund appropriations. The Crime Lab receives an annual appropriation from the General Fund that is deposited in the Criminalistics Laboratory Fund. This is a nonreversionary fund that began in FY 2006 as mandated in Iowa Code section [691.9](#). This Fund is used by the Crime Lab for the purchase and maintenance of equipment, depreciation, and training. The operating budget for the Crime Lab is included in the appropriation for the DCI. The following chart shows the appropriation history for both the DCI and the Crime Lab. In addition, the Crime Lab receives some federal funding, but that has been declining in recent years.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [80](#)
[661](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

Department of Public Safety: www.dps.state.ia.us/index.shtml

Iowa General Assembly: www.legis.iowa.gov/

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